

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
COUNCIL

SUMMATION OF MINUTES  
TUESDAY JANUARY 8, 2008

I. **Introduction and Comments**

Members present:

Jesse Strycker

Carl Zager

Suzann Owen

Others present:

Justin Goodwin

Michael White

**Public:**

II. **Approval of Minutes**

Zager motioned to approve the December 4, 2007 minutes. Owen seconded.  
Minutes approved 3-0-2.

**Old Business**

IV. **Public Comment**

## **Reports and Announcements**

### **A). BTC Members**

Owen wanted to give an update regarding the state franchises. Minnesota is currently moving the state franchise through their legislature again. The concern is that this will cut the PEG Channel fees and support local cable programming instead. Wisconsin's governor has approved their state franchise bill though there was some thought that it should have been turned down. Missouri Public Access Television is struggling to stay alive after the franchise law went into effect that allow the local cable providers to abandon their franchise talks which in turn allows them to abandon public access television. Michigan's complaint regarding Comcast was that their PEG Channels were being moved to channels as high as 900 and in most cases are higher than the movie channels that people are subscribed.

Zager stated that the spurious emergency overrides that are still occurring are becoming more of a problem for viewers. These alerts are disconcerting and dangerous to the viewers since they are not stating whether or not they are an actual alert or not. Zager stated that locating the source of these overrides is futile. Zager moved to have the City of Bloomington look into these overrides. Zager stated that it should be either ITS or the Board of Public Works that looks into this problem. Zager stated he is not placing blame or looking for a culprit to blame; he wants to know why these alerts are happening and who is broadcasting them. Strycker motioned to have the City of Bloomington look into the source of these overrides. Owen seconded the motion. Motion approved. 3-0-2.

### **B.) CATS**

**The report is in the official record.**

White presented the monthly report to the council.

White wanted to thank the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, the Town of Ellettsville and the Monroe County Library for all of their help with monetary funding to keep CATS on the air.

Owen asked what changed CATS hoped to make in the year to come. White stated that CATS hoped to produce a lot more library programming. There will be three new master control positions added and a production assistant, this will fill a position left vacant by an employee who left last year to take another job. CATS Eye will be coming back; Kids Alive will be coming back and more local public service announcements.

Owen asked White if he had heard anything from any video service providers. White stated that other than a notice from Insight about them becoming Comcast they have not heard from any providers.

Zager stated that he believes that he concerned at this point that more people are worried about getting the Big 10 Network then the PEG Channels and that he could see more people moving from Comcast to AT&T UVerse to get the Big 10. Owen stated that she finds nothing after going through legal information that protects the placement of the PEG channels and that maybe speaking with Matt Pierce about this could be a good idea. White stated that there is big risk of local media being taken off of the air over the next five years.

### **C.) Comcast**

**The report is in the official record.**

No one from Comcast was present. They are not required to attend due to the franchise being at the State level now.

**D.) WTIU/TIU2**

**The report is in the official record.**

No one from WTIU/TIU2 was present. They are only required to attend meetings on a quarterly basis. Strycker presented the report to the council.

**E.) AT&T**

No one from AT&T was present.

**F.) Bloomington Digital Underground**

No one from BDU was present.

**III. Old Business**

**IV. New Business**

**V. Adjournment**

The next official meeting of the Telecommunications Council is  
set for Tuesday February 5, 2008 at 7:30 in the City Council  
Chambers